

[24 November, 2006]

RAJYASABHA

Obesity and overweight among school children

354. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of obesity and overweight are rising and affecting even the urban poor and school children in the country; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and the steps taken or proposed to be taken for safeguarding such problems of obesity and overweight in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the overall cross sectional study suggests an increase in the prevalence of obesity and overweight over the period. Across sectional study undertaken in Delhi schools show that the prevalence rate of overweight and obese children is 29%. This is an increase from previous studies which showed it as 16% (2002-2004, adolescents). According to ICMR, 2nd report of National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau showed that the prevalence of obesity was 2.3% and 2.4% in males and females respectively during 1975-79 which increased to 3.8% and 6.0% respectively 1996-97.

"(b) The main reasons attributed to the rising prevalence of overweight and obesity include reduced level of physical activity/increase in sedentary life style as also increased consumption of calorie dense and nutrient deficient food items. Since creating awareness through information, education and communication is the main strategy to tackle this issue, this component has been incorporated in the proposed National Programme for Control of Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases (CVD).

Spreading of AIDS through syringes

355. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news reports that India dangerously underestimated the number of its estimated 5.7